Roll OTO VIJE

U.S., Haitian officials work together on quake relief

Air Station tax center scheduled to open Jan. 21 at new location

Countering insurgency with bandages instead of bullets

Pardon our noise, it's the sound of freezin

Team New River once again raises most donations for Onslow County Special Olympic athletes during 2010 Polar Plunge at Onslow Beach





5 Station Marines head to Haiti HMH-461 deploys with 22nd MEU to assist in disaster relief efforts after earthquake

MAG returns to Air Station
Marine Aircraft Group 26 welcomed home
by family, friends on Station flightline



Community Events

Motorcycle Safety Classes are available for military sports bikes, experienced riders and basic riders aboard the Station. For more information on times and dates call Barry Johnson, traffic safety specialist, at 449-4424 or e-mail at barry.johnson@usmc.mil.

Throughout the year the DeLalio Parent Teacher Association collects Box Tops for Education, Tyson's A++, and Campbell's labels. They earn 10 cents for each Box Top collected from General Mills products. Anyone can collect and drop off at the school's front office. The Officers' Club offers lunch to all ranks from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily. The club also offers Happy Hour from 5-6 p.m. For more information about O'Club events, call 449-6409. For information regarding other clubs, call 449-6707/5145.

Our Military Kids grants are given to honor the sacrifices that military families make and to ensure that their children have access to sports, fine arts or academic tutoring programs. For more information visit http://www.ourmilitarykids.org/

ROTOVUE

MCAS New River's Official Publication 2009

www.newriverrotovue.com

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Air Station Marines bound for Haiti relief

Press Release II Marine Expeditionary Force

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461 departed the Air Station Saturday as the aviation element for the Camp Lejeune, N.C.-based 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit bound for Haiti to assist in disaster relief efforts in the wake of an earthquake that struck the Caribbean nation Jan. 12.

The relief effort also includes elements of Air Station Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 29 and Marine Wing Support Squadron 272.

The 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit is embarked aboard the amphibious ships USS Bataan, Fort McHenry and Carter Hall, and consists of its Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment; Combat Logistics Battalion 22; HMH-461; and its Command Element.

The 22nd MEU is composed of approximately 2,200 Marines and sailors, and recently returned from a

seven-month deployment to U.S., European and Central Commands.

"Our Marines and sailors are trained and ready to make a difference," said Col. Gareth F. Brandl, commanding officer of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. "We will deploy with our Navy team of the Amphibious Ready Group to support the Haitian government's efforts with humanitarian assistance and disaster relief."

With disaster relief and humanitarian assistance as one of its core competencies, the unit is capable of providing a wide range of support to the people of Haiti, including but not limited to: engineering support, medical aid, and water purification. Camp Lejeune area Marines have seen service in Haiti several times in recent years, including stability and support operations in 1994 and 2004, support to Haitian refugees in the early 1990s, and providing humanitarian aid in the wake of storms that killed hundreds of Haitian citizens in 2008.



Air Station Marines board a CH-53, from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461, to deploy to Haiti in support of the nation's disaster relief efforts, Jan. 16. Haiti was struck by an earthquake Jan. 12. Photo by Lance Cpl. Joshua Whitehead

VMM-162 set sail aboard USS Nassau

By Cpl. Brandon Dulaney Staff Writer

After months of training and preparation, nearly 400 Marines and sailors from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 162 (Reinforced) departed the Air Station Jan. 17 as the Aviation Combat Element of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

The 'Golden Eagles,' who are scheduled for a seven- month deployment, are reinforced with elements of Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 269, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464 and Marine Attack Squadron 223. The composite squadron will provide assault transport of combat troops, supplies and equipment in support of the 24th MEU.

A Marine expeditionary unit is a specialized air ground task force capable of a full spectrum of operations ranging from full scale combat to precision raids and humanitarian relief efforts.

"The Marines are looking forward to getting out there and supporting the MEU mission in any way it is called upon to do so," said Master Sgt. Bill Vorheder, VMM-162 family readiness officer. "They have spent the last six months training and preparing in every way possible to

get ready for this deployment.

"They are really eager to get on the ship," he added. "After training for so long, they just want to get out there and do what they were trained to do. This deployment marks the first time for nearly half of the squadron and those are the Marines who are eager to get out and see what it is all about."

For Lance Cpl. Jamaal Whyte, an administrative clerk with VMM-162, this marks a new chapter in his journey as a Marine.

"This is very exciting for me," said Whyte. "I have never been deployed before and I think this will be a great way to get out there and do the things we were trained to do – to make a difference somewhere, somehow."

While the last few days serves as a time for Marines and sailors to spend time with their families, others see it as a chance to form bonds with those they will be serving with.

"This will be a good chance to work closely with Marines that do other things than I do," said Whyte. "We will all be on a ship, working close together and it is going to be a eye opener just seeing how the other parts of the Marine Corps work."

Although deploying is not something new

to the 'Golden Eagles,' this deployment will be unique. The deployment marks the first MEU deployment for the Squadron with the MV-22B Osprey and it adds to their already long list of capabilities.

Extensive training was conducted aboard USS Nassau to familiarize the Marines with working and deploying from a sea-based platform. The ship will be a far cry from the desert of Western Iraq where the unit was last deployed.

As the time winds down and the Marines depart, one thing is sure to be on the minds of every 'Golden Eagle.' "Get out there and get the job done."

Mission accomplishment is what it is all about, said Vorheder. The spirit and morale of the Marines is through the roof. They are very proud to be a part of what they are doing and are more than ready to get out there and accomplish whatever task is set before them, he said.

"They are all expecting to get involved in something," he added. "Whether it be humanitarian assistance, dealing with issues in Somalia or even heading to Afghanistan, these Marines are more than willing to get in the fight."



THE NAVAL HOSPITAL CAMP LEJEUNE

will be administering seasonal and H1N1
Influenza vaccine to all military spouses,
retirees and their family members at the
Tarawa Terrace II Community Center
(bldg. TT44) located at Tarawa Blvd. on
January 26, 27, and 28 from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Eligible military members must present a military ID to receive a vaccination.



The CDC recommends children aged 6 months through 9 years of age receive 2 doses of influenza A (H1N1) vaccine with doses separated by approximately 28 days; persons aged 10 and older should receive 1 dose

For more information visit the Naval Hospital website at http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhcl or call the Naval Hospital Immunization Information line at 450-4648 and select option 1.

Contact Information Mr. Raymond Applewhite email:Raymond.Applewhite@med.navy.mil

Phone: (910) 450-4463 • Fax: (910) 450-4012



Petty Officer 1st Class Jeffrey R. Birch, a religious program specialist with Marine Aircraft Group 26, walks to his car with his family after a welcome home ceremony Thursday. The Marines, returning from a seven-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, were treated to a motorcycle escort on the last leg of the homecoming journey from Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jason Hernandez

MAG-26 Marines get roaring return escort

By Lance Cpl. Jason Hernandez Staff Writer

Marines with Marine Air Group 26 returned to the Air Station Jan. 14 from a seven month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Marines were some of the last MAG-26 members to leave Al Anbar Province, Iraq, marking the near completion of Marine air operations in western Iraq.

"As with anything, it's definitely an amazing feeling when you're one of the last to do anything," said Lt. Col. Frank B. Crisafulli, the executive officer for MAG-26. "We've done a lot of firsts, but overall it was a very safe deployment and we came back with as many people as we left with."

One interesting element of the home-coming was MAG-26's escort from Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point to New River. The bus carrying the Marines was lead, and followed, by motorcycles from "Warriors' Watch," an organization dedicated to making sure every service member gets a memorable homecoming.

"I just wanted to say welcome back to some of my brothers," said Tony Fialkowski, one of the riders in the motorcycle escort. "Every Marine deserves an awesome welcome home."

Fialkowski served with MAB-26 on the Air Station from 1969-1970 in the unit's radio section and served proudly as a radio operator in Vietnam, he said. After a not-so-warm reception upon his return from Vietnam, he and others like him wanted to make sure that every service member gets the respectful welcome home that they so deserve.

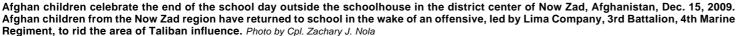
"The important thing is that these guys have a memorable welcome home and we came all the way from just north of Philadelphia to make sure they get it," said Fialkowski after shaking every Marines hand, regardless of rank or occupation. "It's really important that they know they're appreciated."

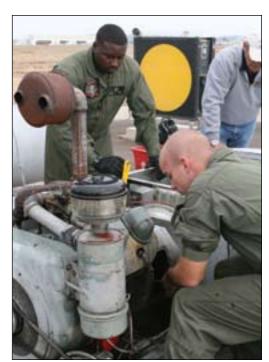
As for the Marines returning home, very little was said. The small group, roughly 25 sailors and Marines, disembarked from their bus and greeted their families before grabbing their bags and disappearing into the night in a flurry of headlights.

With the Iraq chapter of their unit history over, returning MAG-26 personnel will complete their debriefs and transition training before enjoying post-deployment leave and reestablishing MAG-26 aboard New River

RIVER THEA TICKETS AND CONCESSIONS OPEN 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO MOVIE TIME. Pricing: \$1 Adults and children over 6 Fri Jan 15 7:00 p.m. FANTASTIC Mr. Fox PG 9:30 p.m. PG-13 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON Sat Jan 16 7:00 p.m. PG FANTASTIC Mr. Fox 9:30 p.m. NINJA ASSASSIN R Sun Jan 17 3:00 p.m. FANTASTIC Mr. FOX PG 6:00 p.m. R NINJA ASSASSIN 1:00 p.m. PG Mon Jan 18 FANTASTIC MR. FOX Wed Jan 20 9:30 a.m. EVERYBODY'S FINE PG-13 7:00 p.m. EVERYBODY'S FINE PG-13 Fri Jan 22 7:00 p.m. **OLD Dogs** PG 9:30 p.m. PG-13 EVERYBODY'S FINE Sat Jan 23 7:00 p.m. **OLD DOGS** PG 9:30 p.m. EVERYBODY'S FINE PG-13 Sun Jan 24 3:00 p.m. OLD DOGS PG 6:00 p.m. THE BLIND SIDE PG-13 7:00 p.m. Mon Jan 25 ARMORED PG-13 **Wed Jan 27** 9:30 a.m. PG-13 THE BLIND SIDE 7:00 p.m. THE BLIND SIDE PG-13 Fri Jan 29 7:00 p.m. THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG G 9:30 p.m. THE BLIND SIDE PG-13 7:00 p.m. THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG Sat Jan 30 G







Expeditionary airfield systems technicians at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., perform maintenance on the E-28 arresting gear used to stop F/A-18 Hornets during emergency landings. The gear passed its annual inspection and certification, Dec. 2-4, 2009. Photo by Cpl. Aubry L. Buzek



(Above) U.S. Air Force pararescuemen conduct a combat insertion and extraction exercise with a Marine Corps CH-53 Super Stallion helicopter attached to Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron 464 in Djibouti, Africa Jan. 5. Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Jeremiah Erickson

(Right) A local member of the Afghan National Army walks through a gap in a farmer's wall during a patrol through the village of Laki, in Garmsir District, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Jan. 5. Marines and sailors from Weapons Company and Jump Platoon, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, and local members of the Afghan National Army patrolled through Laki Jan. 4-7, to familiarize themselves with the local populace and begin providing security in the area. Photo by Lance Cpl. Dwight A. Henderson





Air Station tax center to open for service members

By Cpl. Cecilia N. Rooks Editor

The Marine Corps Air Station New River Tax Center is scheduled to open Jan. 21 to provide free tax preparation to service members and their families.

The tax center has been relocated this year to the second floor of AS-216 next to the Marine Aircraft Group 26 headquarters building.

Service members utilizing the tax center are being asked to park in the lot behind AS-216 and to enter the stairwell on the East end of the building across from the hangers.

The tax center hours are as follows: Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m. (by appointment) and Saturday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. (by individual appointment). All appointments can be made by calling the tax center.

The center is open nearly everyday

to provide tax preparation services to as many military members as possible before the April 15 deadline.

Everyone using the tax center is required to bring all W-2 forms from 2009, last year's tax record, social security card and any other documentation the taxpayer feels might be important during the tax preparation process.

Along with bringing all necessary paperwork, customers will be asked to fill out a client intake sheet, which will help tax center personnel prepare returns in a timely fashion.

Patrons are also asked to not to bring children to the tax center due to limited space; however, daycare is being offered through the Child Development Center on the Air Station. Anyone in need of daycare should call the tax center for more information.

For more information on the tax center or to schedule an appointment, call 449-4891/7169.

Bring copies of all applicable forms:

- Economic Recovery Payment
- W-2 Disability Income
- Interest from checking or savings account, bonds, CD, or brokerage account, state tax refund
- Alimony income
- Any court ordered child care or custody decree from court
- Pension and/or IRA distribution (1099)
- Social Security or Rail way Retirement
- Self Employment or unemployment
- Other income such as gambling winnings, awards, prizes and Jury duty
- Education expenses (1098T)
- Home mortgage payments
- Real Estate Tax
- Mortgage Insurance Premiums
- HUD Statements First Time Homebuyer Credit
- Sales Tax on New Vehicles (Purchases after 2/16/2009)

- Charitable contributions (if itemizing)
- Child/dependent care expenses (Child care provider EIN or SSN)
- Estimated tax payments
- Amounts of other income
- Bank Account Information to electronically file tax return (voided check or deposit slip)
- Social Security card for spouse if married in 2009
- Power of Attorney if filing a joint return if spouse is not present
- Social Security or ITIN number for all dependents claimed on tax return Dividend information
- All rental property information if claiming rental information
- Old Tax Record (2008)
- For State Tax Return, Country and School District
- Any information you think will help properly prepare your tax return

Barrier system enhances Station security

By Cpl. Brandon Dulaney
Staff Writer

With just a glance, it is not hard to tell that the face of the Air Station is changing; rapidly at that. Changes include new hangars, buildings and housing, just to name a few. However, one of the more noticeable recent additions lies just inside the front gate.

The new addition is one of security. the setup is part of the Barrier1 vehicle arrestor barrier system, which is designed to stop unauthorized vehicles attempting to make entry onto the Air Station.

Developed by Barrier1 Systems, Inc., this new-age barrier system provides a non-lethal alternative to previous security measures, which included different types of drop arm gates, mounting bollards and other barrier systems that could be lethal upon impact.

The previous versions also required much more maintenance. The Vehicle Arrestor can be built quickly, deploys and retracts without maintenance and can be used repeatedly without any damage.

If a vehicle breaches the gate or enters without permission and the gate sentry feels the security of the installation is threatened, the sentry has the opportunity to push a button to immediately activate the vehicle arrestor.

Within seconds, a specifically designed net deploys from under the roadway and absorbs the vehicle in the cable net, rather than crushing it on impact. This type of non-lethal system is preferred due to minimal harm to the car and driver.



The Barrier1 vehicle arrestor barrier system, designed to keep unauthorized vehicles from entering the base, was installed at the back gate last year and is currently being installed at the front gate as part of upgraded Air Station security measures. Photo by Lance Cpl. Charles S. Howard

"It's part of the Air Station's defenses-in-depth for antiterrorism force protection," said John Thorn, anti-terrorism officer for Air Station. "This is an excellent piece of equipment to have because it gives an added sense of security for those aboard the Air Station.

"There is already one of these systems at the back gate and along the road connecting the front gate and rear gates," he said. "It goes to show that we are doing everything it takes to ensure no unauthorized person comes aboard this installation and that security is an upmost priority."

However, the barriers are only a small fraction of the security measures being taken. With the construction of a new front gate entry control point, a watch tower will also be built along side to give a bird's-eye perspective and a helping hand to sentries posted down below.

"With the addition of a tower at the front gate area, it will give authorities a better vantage point to keep an eye on what is going on at and around the gate," said Thorn. "They will also be equipped with a secondary switch to activate the barrier system in case the sentry cannot do so."

Video surveillance is also a big part of the security measures being taken to ensure the safety of personnel aboard the Air Station.

"There are cameras just about everywhere one could think of," said Thorn. "It does not matter where a person is at, they will be on a camera. It does not matter whether it is day or night, they can be seen. We have the technology and resources to ensure that every possible area is monitored."

With all of the security systems set in place, the new barrier system at the gate serves as an indicator that Air Station officials are doing everything it takes to make the installation as safe and secure as possible.

Another advantage of the security upgrades is they do not appear threatening, Thorn said.

"I think it's great because it is simple and not intrusive," he said. "You want people to be protected without intimidating them."





Lt. Col. Joseph A. Woodward (second from right), Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron commanding officer, chats with Col. Paul J. Rock Jr., Marine Medium Tiltrotor Training Squadron 204 commanding officer, during a New Year's celebration at the Officers' Club aboard the Air Station, Jan. 8. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jason Hernandez

Air Station personnel welcome new year with friends, fun, food

By Lance Cpl. Jason Hernandez Staff Writer

Personnel from various commands aboard the Air Station come together for a New Years party at the Air Station officers' club The Landing Zone, Jan. 8.

The party was held in order to allow officers, senior enlisted personnel and their families to ring in the new year together with fine food and drinks as well as good company.

"Ît's important that we all take this little time out to celebrate this new year of opportunity before us," said Lt. Col. Joseph A. Woodward, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron commanding officer. "It's a new year of opportunity we have before us and that is something to celebrate."

Also in attendance was the sergeant major of Marine Corps Installations East and senior officers from various tenant commands.

To mark the event, various veterans and local Jacksonville officials were also on hand to express thanks and ring in a new year of cooperation between the service members stationed in the greater Jacksonville area and local residents.

"It's really nice to be here, celebrating the new year with those who serve," said Bernard Jensen, a retired Marine and Jacksonville resident. "I mean, it's a few days late, but to be honest it's not a New Years Eve party, it's a party to celebrate that we're in a new year."

Dinner and drinks were served, and a live band was on-hand to entertain.

The previous 365 days have seen a vast array of events at the Air Station, including visits by senior members of the Department of Defense and the U.S. government, the training of Pakistani officers aboard the installation, the delivery of the first Ospreys to Afghanistan and the victory of the New River Knights at the inter-mural football championship game.

"New River had an amazing year in 2009, every other week I was reading about something amazing happening on base," added Jensen. "With a good year like that behind it, I'm sure New River has an amazing new year before it."



New River NMCRS disburses more than \$400,000 in 2009

By Diana Hewlett NMCRS Volunteer Public Relations Officer

Maria did not know where to turn. Her car had just broke down only two weeks after her husband deployed for Afghanistan. The repair estimate was more than \$1,000.

Maria desperately needed the car to commute to her job and bring her two children to daycare. The situation seemed helpless. The couple's meager savings had been depleted when they traveled home for Maria's father's funeral the previous month.

As she sat in her kitchen staring at her cup of coffee, Maria remembered something about a society on base she had heard about at the pre-deployment brief. She nervously picked up the phone. Maria was not used to asking for help, but she felt she had no other choice. It seemed surreal as she heard herself explaining her situation to the volunteer at the New River Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. She was relieved when she was told that she should come in to meet with a counselor, and they would do their best to help her.

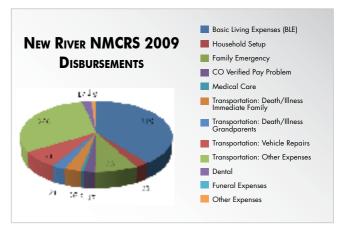
Maria's story is not unique. Last year, the Air Station's Navy Marine Corps Relief Society saw more than 811 active duty and retired service members. The society disbursed 760 loans for a total of \$402,570 and 58 grants totalling \$25,669 to local Marines, sailors and their families. The majority of the loans given out in 2009 were

for basic living expenses. The society distributed 286 of these loans for a total of \$124,431.

In an effort to combat predatory "pay day" lenders charging exhorbitant interest rates to local military families in need of emergency cash, the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society also created the Quick Assist Loan. This interest-free loan is capped at \$300 and is designed to help Marines and sailors with emergency needs for living expenses. The society distributed 428 Quick Assist Loans for a total of \$124,710 in 2009.

The interest-free loans and grants distributed to the service members in 2009 were for various reasons including basic living expenses, household setup, family emergencies, medical care, transportation for death or illness of the immediate family, vehicle repairs, dental expenses and funeral expenses. The support the New River Navy Marine Corps Relief Society delivered may have meant a military family did not have their water turned off; it may have allowed the repair of a family's only means of transportation; or it may have allowed a sailor or Marine to fly across the country to be at the bedside of an ailing parent.

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is a private, non-profit, volunteer service organization that was founded in 1904 with only nine volunteers. The Society's principal activity is the disbursement of interest-free loans and grants to active and retired sailors and



Graph provided by the New River Navy Marine Corps Relief Society

Marines. As they were when the society was founded, volunteers remain the main engine of the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society and accomplish the major portion of the society's work.

For information about volunteer opportunities available at the New River Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, please call Leah Aquino at 449-6431. All volunteer positions include training, reimbursement for childcare and mileage reimbursement.

Simple tricks of trade can protect your vehicle from thieves

By Lance Cpl. Brittany J. Kohler Staff Writer

Though car theft is not a common problem on the Air Station, having the knowledge on how to keep your car and its accessories safecan prevent you from becoming a victim of pilfering. There are many preventative actions which can reduce the risk of being an easy mark for criminals, on and off base.

The City of Jacksonville crime prevention unit recommends parking your car in a busy, well-lit area, to always roll up the windows and keep it locked. Also, never leave your car running when you are not in it, this gives anyone the opportunity to drive away with your vehicle. When parking in a parking garage, consider leaving the ignition key with the attendant, but make sure no personal information is attached.

"Things being stolen out of cars is growing because of the economy, so it's even more important to put those things away because of the cost to replace these items," said Guy J. Lalonde, Air Station crime prevention specialist.

Before buying radios, navigation systems, and CD players, consider choosing electronics that can be removed, says Lalonde. When leaving the vehicle unattended, it is smart to lock high value items in the trunk.

"I think it's a crime of opportunity," said Lalonde. "Now, people are suffering financially so if someone walks by that normally wouldn't be the type to steal, and happens to see a high-priced item in a car, they might do it since it is laying right there."

Government crime prevention officials state car-jackings are becoming more common and criminal techniques are continuously evolving. The "bump and rob" method has been a hit with criminals. Using this method, car jackers bump a car in traffic and wait for the occupant to get out to inspect the damage. Then an accomplice jumps into the unattended car and drives off. The crime



The city of Jacksonville crime prevention unit recommends rolling up your windows and making sure the doors are locked before leaving it unattended *Photo by Sgt. Jonathan T. Spencer*

prevention unit suggests that if you get rear-ended, to look around before you get out of your vehicle to make sure there are other witnesses present and to check out the car that hit you and who is in it. If the situation makes you uneasy, stay in the car and insist on moving to a police station or busy, well-lighted area to exchange information.

The Air Station crime prevention unit received reports that a few weeks ago, a group of criminals in eastern North Carolina were working in parking lots and putting signs on the backs of vehicles. Walking to your car, you may not see the sign but it blocks your vision when backing up. So when you get out to remove it, they rob you or high-jack your car.

"These guys are always one step ahead," said Lalonde. "The more aware you are of the tricks and scams people

use, the better off you are going to be."

If you become a victim of a crime, specialists say the best thing to do is to call law enforcement right away before touching anything.

"Depending on what it is, fingerprints may be necessary and you don't want to disturb anything," said Lalonde. "This may also help you with your car insurance if there is a report done, especially if they damaged the car."

The Station crime prevention unit suggests carrying your registration and insurance card with you when you get out of the vehicle at an accident scene. If you take both things out with you, you will have the information with you right away when reporting your car stolen, says Lalonde.

"If that individual is stopped by authorities, they will not be able to provide insurance and registration, which will alert the officer that something is wrong and he will further investigate," he said.

Another protection method crime prevention specialists suggest is to etch the vehicle identification number on the windows, doors, fenders, and trunk lid. Copy the vehicle identification number and your tag number on a card and keep it in a safe place so you have the information to provide to the police if your vehicle is stolen.

"It's a good system because it's going to cause the thieves a lot of trouble if they try to sell the parts, and it makes it easier for authorities to track down," said Lalonde.

Crime prevention specialists provide further protection ideas for your vehicle such as purchasing a mechanical locking device that locks your steering wheel, column, or brake. Installing a security system will help protect your vehicle and may make you eligible for a discount on your auto insurance.

There are many steps and methods to help protect you from becoming a victim, but nothing is guaranteed; even in a secure community, crime may exist.



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8 a.m. to 7 p.m. • 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. (By appointment)

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8 a.m. to 12 p.m. (By appointment)

To make an appointment, call 449-4891/7169

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FISCAL YEAR 2010 OFFICER RETENTION BOARD CAREER DESIGNATION, RETURN TO COMPETITIVE CAREER DESIGNATION AND CHANGE IN MERITORIOUS CAREER DESIGNATION POLICY

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MARINE OFFICER APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED BY NFDS
BLUE ANGELS FOR CY 2011-2013 SHOW SEASONS

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2010 ANNUAL NAVY LEAGUE SEA SERVICE AWARDS

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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FISCAL YEAR 2010 OFFICER RETENTION BOARD CAREER DESIGNATION, RETURN TO COMPETITIVE CAREER DESIGNATION AND CHANGE IN MERITORIOUS CAREER DESIGNATION POLICY

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2010 DOD SECRETARY OF DEFÉNSE MAINTENANCE AWARDS PROGRAM SUBMISSIONS



Team New River raises most donations

If we know there is an athlete who is having La hard time, we try to offer our services to get them what they need.

> Dot M. Hochstrasser, Onslow County Special Olympics coordinator

By Lance Cpl. Brittany J. Kohler

Despite the sub-freezing temperatures, more than 160 participants put personal comfort aside and took a dip in the Atlantic Ocean at Onslow Beach during the 4th annual Polar Plunge, Jan. 9.

The annual plunge raises money for Onslow County competition going between units." Special Olympics. The organization offers eight sports for more than 400 athletes.

The 2010 Polar Plunge raised \$8,000, which will pay for new basketball uniforms, tennis equipment, new swimming suits and personalized swimming caps for the upcoming Olympics.

"We make it so there is no cost to the athletes," said coordinator. "If we know there is an athlete who is having Special Olympics. a hard time, we try to offer our services to get them what they need, for example new basketball shoes."

and says it is her favorite fundraiser and looks forward to costumes and outfits that the people were wearing; it

"It was the coldest polar plunge I've done here in North Carolina, but it was really fun," said Zerba. "I would like to see more people from New River participate in the future, it would be fun to get a little

Team New River consisted of 20 members who raised River participates each year with a different costume theme. event. We try to make it as effortless as possible." This year, the team's theme was 80's aerobics instructors, which won "Best Team Costume" at the event.

"When I arrived out there and got out of my car, I Kathy E. Zerba, Air Station commanding officer's into the ocean in the first part of January is crazy," http://www.sonconslow.org.

secretary, has participated in the polar plunge every year said James. "I had a lot of fun seeing the different was definitely a different experience."

> To raise funds, each plunger created a personal profile on for the Polar Plunge Web site to help solicit sponsor donations for the event. Sponsors ranged from businesses to friends and relatives.

"The Web site is great, you can be in Iraq or Afghanistan and still be able to donate," said Hochstrassover \$3,000, more than any of the other nine teams. New er. "Participants can also give cash donations at the

Hochstrasser explained she was very pleased with the outcome of the event and challenges more Camp Plunging for his first time, Gamaliel L. James, a Sta- Lejeune teams to stand up to New River's back-totion administrative assistant, says he participated because back years of raising the most donations. "I want to Dot M. Hochstrasser, Onslow County Special Olympics it was for a good cause and he wanted to help out the thank everyone (who) came out," said Hochstrasser. "I really appreciate everything they do."

For additional information on the Onslow Counthought about what I was getting myself into, running ty Special Olympics, call (910) 388-1462 or visit



Hollywood: Wars real opinion finder

By Lance Cpl. Jason Hernandez Staff Writer

It is hard not to notice the ever-growing fan base of James Cameron's newest blockbuster, "Avatar." A hit in theaters, the film marks the cutting edge in movie graphics, turning an epic story into what can be seen as an epic visual experience.

But beneath the nearly flawless graphics, the scale of the film and contrastingly thin plotline, there is a deeper message. It is a message that, time and again has made itself apparent in film. Hollywood is America's mass opinion barometer during times of conflict.

As the years since the Vietnam War have shown, Hollywood productions have been affected by American opinion toward whichever conflict it is, or has recently been, involved in.

Take for example war movies during and after Vietnam. As the war began, movies like John Wayne's "The Green Berets" were largely popular. The film showed Vietnam in a positive light with a clear victory and black-and-white morals and 18year-old soldiers with general looks of innocence.

Yet as American involvement in Vietnam dragged on, a starkly different vision of war came to the big screen in the form of "The Dirty

Dozen." The film depicts 12 U.S. Army death row prisoners during World War II. The cast represented a full range of character flaws from rage-aholics to religious zealots, and murderers to armed

The film climaxes with the "Dozen" dumping gasoline into a basement onto dozens of German army officers and their mistresses and heaving in grenades killing without mercy. The ending shows only a handful of the Americans actually survive

After the war, as public opinion continued to cast a dark cloud on the Vietnam War, a generally anti-military film trend took shape. From "Apocalypse Now" to "Full Metal Jacket", and from "Hamburger Hill" to "Platoon", nearly all movies involving Vietnam depicted the military in a very negative light.

The trend carried over to science-fiction and horror, both on screen and in literature. George. E. Romero made "The Crazies," which is the story of a town that is accidently hit by a secret military weapon. As the townsfolk go mad and the Army rushes in, a large portion of the movie shows the military firing indiscriminately into crowds and hitting civilians with flamethrowers. The military seems to spend more time killing civilians in the movie than trying to cure the disease.

In Stephen King's "The Stand," a bid to cover up the outbreak of a deadly government-created super-flu shows the military going to great lengths to hide not only its involvement, but hide the fact people are dying all together. One page describes soldiers firing on protesting college students while on another soldiers gun down a talk show host for reporting the cover up.

So are all movies now negative? No, not at all. The door swings both ways. After the United State's swift victory over Iraq during the Persian Gulf War, Hollywood began to portray the military as cunningly efficient or sometimes in a humorous light.

From Damon Wayans tormenting ROTC students in "Major Payne" to the quick and nearly bloodless response of federal troops in "Outbreak," the 1990s indeed showed American troops in a positive light. In "Independence Day," service members fight off an inter-planetary invasion, and the popular sitcom "Major Dad" humanized Marine officers by showing their home and family lives in a comedic light.

Few movies more so than "Saving Private Ryan," a film which showed soldiers doing everything from following orders, regardless of the cost

to being shot while attempting to save a young French girl, stunned audiences with its savagery as the soldiers fought to survive on a gritty bloodsoaked battlefield.

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001, we've seen a mixture in how the military is portrayed.

With films like "Black Hawk Down" and "Flags of our Fathers" once again showing the viciousness of conflict and the bonds it forges, it is not at all hard to deduct that Americans are still proud of their military.

Yet as the conflicts continue, some films are beginning to sway in the other direction. The nearly inept and reckless portrayal of the military in "The Day the Earth Stood Still" and "28 Weeks Later" are examples of how there are still differing views on military action within the United States.

With movies like "Brothers" showing the individual conflicts Americans are facing in this most recent war and films like "Avatar" showing a military controlled by corporations fighting for a precious energy source, it is a wonder to imagine what the next few years of cinema will bring.

So, what do the American people think of America's newest conflict? Well, see a war movie in two or three years and find out for yourself.

Ask the expert: How do I stick DELALLO to my New Year's resolutions?

By Dr. Leslie Slosky Marine and Family Services



Question: Every New Year I start out with good goals to exercise, lose weight, read good books, and generally become a better person. Every year by mid January, I have forgotten all my resolutions. How do I stick to it?

Answer: Many people make plans on New Years to start anew and reform all their bad habits. It can be done of course if one sticks to it. There are a couple of guidelines that take

into account human nature. Change takes time, focus, and practice. Many people tackle too much. They want to change four or five habits all at the same time and get frustrated when they fail to turn into the perfect person that they wanted to be.

It is best to keep to one or two habits at a time. What often works is to pair the changes. For example, quit smoking and take up exercise. The two habit changes reinforce each other. Quit watching so much TV and take up reading - again the changes in behavior are supportive.

Another point in following through with resolutions is to be patient. Change takes about three weeks before it becomes a new habit. If you can get through those first few weeks, you are well on the way.

Planning also helps to increase the likelihood of success. If you are planning on starting to exercise, for example, get yourself the right clothes and shoes. Plan when, where and how often you will exercise or practice the change. Enlist a friend to exercise with you or encourage you in making the change.

Mentally picture yourself exercising and becoming more fit or becoming a nonsmoker or having made another change. Divide your goal into steps and reward yourself with something you want when you reach

Don't use failure initially as an excuse to give up. Any ex-smoker will tell you that they quit many times before they quit for good. Most people who lose weight have tried several times before they are successful. Change is a process as well as a goal.

Whatever your New Year resolution, approach it with optimism and give it your best effort. Finally give yourself credit for what you have accomplished at every step along the way.

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USS Bataan to provide Haiti humanitarian assistance

Marines assigned to the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit embark aboard the multi-purpose amphibious assault ship USS Bataan during preparations by the Bataan Amphibious Relief Mission for a disaster response effort for the nation of Haiti. Bataan departed Naval Station Norfolk to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster response in the aftermath of Haiti's devastating earthquake on Jan. 12. Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461 is providing the air support for the mission. Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Kristopher Wilson

"THE KEY IS PUBLIC AWARENESS"



"OPERATION EAGLE EYES" Antiterrorism Awareness Program

SURVEILLANCE

Are you aware of anyone recording or monitoring activities, taking notes, using cameras, cell phones, maps, binoculars, etc., near the military facility?

SUSPICIOUS QUESTIONING

Are you aware of anyone attempting to gain information in person, by phone, mail, E-mail, etc., regarding deployment status on a military facility or its' personnel?

• TESTS OF SECURITY

Are you aware of any attempts to penetrate or test physical security or procedures at the military facility?

ACQUIRING SUPPLIES

Are you aware of anyone attempting to buy large numbers of Pre-paid Cell Phones, improperly acquire explosives, weapons, ammo, dangerous chemicals, uniforms, badges, flight manuals, access cards, or identification that can be used in a terrorist act?

• SUSPICIOUS PERSONS

Are you aware of anyone who does not appear to belong in the workplace, neighbor hood, or business establishment near the military facility or community?

• DRY RUNS

Have you observed any behavior that appears to be preparation for terrorist activity, such as mapping out routes, playing out scenarios with other people, monitoring key military facilities, timing traffic flow, or any other suspicious activities?

DEPLOYING ASSETS

Have you observed abandoned vehicles, stockpiling of suspicious materials, or persons being deployed near military facility or community infrastructure?

If you observe one or more of these incidents

Call 451-3333

ROTO VIEW

What are your predictions for this year's
Super Bowl?



"I'd like to see Minnesota go to the Super Bowl because I'd like to see Brett Favre win, especially since everyone has been doubting him so much and so he can get another championship in before he retires."

Sgt.
Carlos A. Lopez
Combat instructor
School of Infantry-East
Dayton, Ohio



"Of course, I think the Cowboys will take the Super Bowl because they've really stepped up their game and have been pretty much destroying everyone they've played."

Lance Cpl.
Andrew S. Foster
Student
CNATT
Dallas

MLK Jr., Day encourages people to remember, hope, act

By Master Gunnery Sgt. John Cordero Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni

The third Monday in January is Martin Luther King Day, a day that recognizes King's birthday in Atlanta, on Jan. 15, 1929, and celebrates his life and legacy. The existence of Martin Luther King Day is significant in the United States. Arguably nobody in U.S. history was hated and loved by more people than King. His speeches, marches and countless nonviolent activities designed to overturn the social and legal injustices done to "black" people outraged many "white" people. Yet, his heroic stature among people of all color is ever increasing.

The first thing that comes to my mind when I think of my admiration for King is his "Letter from Birmingham Jail."

In Birmingham, Ala., on April 12, 1963, King led a peaceful demonstration against the racial injustices there. Segregation was deeply rooted in such things as bus seating, schools, parks, restrooms and drinking fountains. In response to desegregation efforts, some people bombed and torched black homes and churches, which caused the city to be dubbed "Bombingham."

One fact that may have prevented people of lesser conviction and character from following their conscience in leading a demonstration was a state court injunction that prohibited King and other civil rights leaders from demonstrating. With a wife and four children in Atlanta, King still decided that perceived public disobedience was justified, so he peacefully demonstrated.

King led 50 other people downtown and up to the police line, coming face-to-face with the head of police. King then knelt down in prayer. He and all the demonstrators were subsequently thrown in jail.

On April 16, King read a letter published in the city paper that was written by eight white Alabama clergymen who criticized King for demonstrating. King responded by writing the "Letter From Birmingham Jail," which King biographer Stephen Oates described as "the most eloquent and learned expression of the goals and philosophy of the nonviolent movement ever written."

The clergymen said King needed to be more patient and not demonstrate.

King wrote:

Perhaps it is easy for those who have never felt the stinging dark of segregation to say, "Wait." But when you have seen vicious mobs lynch your mothers and fathers at will and drown your sisters and brothers at whim; when you have seen hate-filled policemen curse, kick and even kill your black brothers and sisters; when you see the vast majority of your twenty million Negro brothers smothering in an airtight cage



Martin Luther King Jr. addresses a crowd from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial where he delivered his famous, "I Have a Dream," speech during the Aug. 28, 1963, march on Washington, D.C. Photo by Contributor

of poverty in the midst of an affluent society; when you suddenly find your tongue twisted and your speech stammering as you seek to explain to your six-year-old daughter why she can't go to the public amusement park that has just been advertised on television, and see tears welling up in her eyes when she is told that Funtown is closed to colored children, and see ominous clouds of inferiority beginning to form in her little mental sky, and see her beginning to distort her personality by developing an unconscious bitterness toward white people; when you have to concoct an answer for a five-year old son who is asking: "Daddy, why do white people treat colored people so mean?"; when you take a cross-county drive and find it necessary to sleep night after night in the uncomfortable corners of your automobile because no motel will accept you; when you are humiliated day in and day out by nagging signs reading "white" and "colored"; when your first name becomes "nigger," your middle name becomes "boy" (however old you are) and your last name becomes "John," and your wife and mother are never given the respected title "Mrs."; when you are harried by day and haunted by night by the fact that you are a Negro, living constantly at tiptoe stance, never quite knowing what to expect next, and are plagued with inner fears and outer resentments; when you are forever fighting a degenerating sense of "nobodiness" then you will understand why we find it difficult to wait. There comes a time when the cup of endurance runs over, and men are no longer willing to be plunged into the abyss of despair. I hope, sirs, you can understand our legitimate and unavoidable impatience.

To the charge that he was taking "extreme

measures," King responded in the letter like this: Was not Jesus an extremist for love: "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.

If King was an extremist, he was an extremist for love and justice; he was a creative extremist who had a beautiful dream.

On August 28, 1963, 34-year-old King stood before the Lincoln Memorial and said, "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.' I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood. ... I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

King pursued and articulated that great dream.

Unfortunately, King's pursuit was cut short by a nightmarish act of hate.

On April 4, 1968, King was shot and killed while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn., by James Earl Ray.

Those who hated King and his message reportedly cheered when they received the news of King's death. Those who loved King reacted contrary to King's nonviolent tactics.

The existence of Martin Luther King Day testifies to the division in the United States today. This memorial day is more than recognition of King's birth, life and legacy. It's also a day that cries for justice. Many things have changed, but King's dream is not yet realized.

Corpsmen counter insurgency with bandages instead of bullets

By Cpl. Zachary Nola Regimental Combat Team 7

NOW ZAD, Afghanistan — Recently during Operation Cobra's Anger, a multi-day operation led by Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, to rid the Now Zad area of Taliban control, members of the company's severe trauma platoon extended an invitation to members of the battalion's civil affairs group to take cover from the rain in their mobile severe trauma bay.

"We started talking about stuff on the battle front," said Cmdr. Tom Craig, the officer-incharge of the emergency medical facility, Severe Trauma Platoon 3. "What (Civil Affairs Group) said was that there were a lot of females that needed to voice complaints and that if we could get a female in the battle zone to talk to these people, we could probably help a lot of folks."

Civil affairs' observation about the female population was correct. In the Now Zad area medical treatment is scarce, often out of reach and varies in level from town to town.

Memories of Taliban repression still cause women to second guess leaving their home in search of help. For any type of surgical treatment, women must travel many miles to Lashkar Gah, where they receive no post-operational care and due to cultural practices women in the area are often uncomfortable seeking treatment from men.

"There is no doctor in the villages of (Khwaja Jamal), Changwalak, and Dehanna who the women feel comfortable going to," said Lt. Amy Zaycek, the severe trauma platoon nurse with the Female Corpsman Team. The end result of this scarcity, fear, long distance and potential embarrassment is the women of the Now Zad suffering unnecessarily.

It is because of this reason, upon returning to his forward operating base, Craig relayed this message to his command at Combat Logistics Regiment 2 and requested female support at his position.

The response to this request was the Female Corpsman Team an all female medical team consisting of a nurse and three corpsmen. "I was on a twelve-hour notice," said Zaycek. "Cobra's Anger had ended, people were coming to the villages, and from what Dr. Craig had gauged, female medical care was needed."

In the wake of Cobra's Anger the team visited surrounding areas including the village of Changwalak, which reflected how valuable it was to have female medical personnel on hand.

"We saw approximately 40 patients there; 27 women and 13 children," said Zaycek. "Something to gain from that, was that I was told we were seeing women, but the women brought their children. So, that was an unusual circumstance. In addition, it's something that's never gone on before."

The Female Corpsman Team eventually had to move on to different operations but recently returned to Now Zad on Jan. 3 to assist members of the Female Engagement Team, Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan to further the process of treating, educating and engaging the women of Now Zad.

"The FET is really riding shotgun on this but they only have one female corpsman with them so that is why we requested more help," said Craig. "Of course seeing how Zaycek and her team were tried and true in the past, the command element picked them."

Based on the teams last visit to the area the Female Corpsman Team will be confronted with numerous medical conditions ranging from dehydration, to joint and dysentery problems.



Lt. Amy Zaycek, the severe trauma platoon nurse with the Female Corpsman Team holds an Afghan child during a recent patrol in the area of Now Zad, Afghanistan, Jan. 3. Photo by Cpl. Zachary Nola



An Afghan man holds his child while waiting for the child to be assessed by the Female Corpsman Team during a recent visit to villages in the area of Now Zad, Afghanistan, Jan. 3. Photo by Cpl. Zachary Nola

Another area the Female Corpsman Team is tackling is creating instructions for Female Engagement Team members on how to educate Afghan women about basic hygiene principles.

Ideas include creating a flip book for Female Engagement Team members which will include instructions on how to teach dental hygiene, hand washing, the importance of three meals a day and practices that will prevent clean water from becoming contaminated.

Female Corpsman Team members are also helping with the effort to re-establish those medical teaching aids which were once in place in Now Zad.

"Right outside the wire there is a public health area and we were able to find scrolls that had been used four or five years ago as teaching aids," said Zaycek. "The (medical) education was here in this country. It needs to just come back."

Basic medical assistance is not the only the service the Female Corpsman Team provides. While Now Zad's male population is forthcoming about their physical medical concerns, the area's female population has shown an anxiety about emotional concerns. Female Engagement Team and Female Corpsman Team members have shown the ability to provide the female population an emotional outlet where they can voice mental issues and concerns.

"What (the Female Corpsman Team) has been able to provide is really, truly an open door. When we've gone out into the villages to see people, (the female population) tend to open up to the female providers," said Craig. "When I looked at the list of complaints that the females were providing to the (Female Corpsman Team) it was fear of Taliban, fear that my son is going to be brought into the Taliban, fear for my family, fear for my home. A lot of fear components

which the guys don't say at all."

Another secondary effect of the Female Corpsman Team is giving female medical personnel valuable field experience and knowledge, through working with the Female Engagement Team, which can be passed to others.

"It's a good opportunity. A lot of corpsman will never get to come here and will never get to experience this," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Latese Smith, a hospital corpsman with Female Corpsman Team. "I'm looking forward to teaching (the women) to better take care of themselves and their families."

"We'll take all our lessons learned, our knowledge gained, and give it to (other corpsman)." said Zaycek. "The plan is to train up other corpsman and nurses so they feel comfortable doing these missions in different locations"

While smaller than most units operating in the Now Zad area, the Female Corpsman Team is showing size doesn't matter. It's not just the impact they are having on the insurgency but the means they are using to make that impact. They are fighting the insurgency with knowledge and band-aids. Not bullets.

In recent weeks the mood in Now Zad has changed from one of constant tension to one of reconstruction. The area still presents challenges and dangers to both civilians and military forces but the positive results that Afghan national security forces, Lima Co., the Female Engagement Team and Female Corpsman Team have made are undeniable.

"It touched my heart while we were out in Dehanna seeing the kids come up to us." said the 51-year-old Craig. "Knowing that they're actually coming to us, trusting us without fear of retribution from the Taliban, lets me know that's a blow for freedom."

Aviation logistics squadron keeps Corps in fight

By Staff Sgt. Roman YurekMarine Aircraft Group 40

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — For the Marines of Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan, support is vital for success

For the air combat element, this support comes from the Marines providing close-air support overhead, to the Marines behind the scenes ensuring the aircraft remain operational.

The Marines of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 40, Marine Aircraft Group 40, provide the intermediate support for the aviation squadrons, giving them the tools to support Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan.

"We are the sustainment arm of MEB-A," said Maj. Daniel Granado, MALS-40's executive officer.

The mission of MALS-40 is to provide the necessary logistical support to the squadrons of MAG-40 and Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan.

"We provide intermediate support, maintenance, ordnance and supply for all of the squadrons in MAG-40," said Granado. "Our role is to provide readiness by ensuring all of the aircraft have the supplies they need to be ready to go."

Each squadron within MAG-40 has maintenance and supply Marines, which are similar to the sections of MALS-40. The difference however, is the higher level of support that MALS-40 is equipped to provide.

The squadron is broken down into numerous sections, such as hydraulics, ground support equipment, airframes, ordnance, and



Cpls. Andrew Brown (left) and James Manning, hydraulic mechanics with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 40, Marine Aircraft Group 40, Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan, work on the main tire of an AV-8B Harrier, Dec. 17, 2009. Photo by Sgt. Timothy Brumley

supply to name a few. The Marines do everything from working on generators to repairing any vehicle that needs maintenance.

In addition to the challenges inherent in managing various sections, MALS-40 also has to find ways to coordinate with Marines from multiple units to work effectively together as one cohesive team.

"This is a very diverse MALS and it has been quite the challenge with Marines coming from everywhere," said Granado. "But as Marines, we have to deal with it." With the arrival of the MV-22B Ospreys and the new UH-1Y helicopter, the aviation logistic Marines deal with additional obstacles because many of them have limited experience with these aircraft.

However, these challenges have not deterred the Marines, but pushed them to overcome and successfully contribute to the overall effort in Afghanistan.

"It's hard to be away from home, but we get to do something that a lot of people don't get to do," said Lance Cpl. Eduardo Thompson, a ground support equipment mechanic.

"Seeing the work we do actually making a difference really is the most rewarding experience," says Cpl. James Manning, a hydraulic mechanic.

The work this squadron performs is felt not by the aviation squadrons alone, but by the Marines on the ground.

"I have a buddy that is a grunt and last time I was home, we were talking and he told me how much he appreciated all of the air support," said Manning. "It feels good to know the work we do keeps the birds in the air and they take care of the Marines on the ground."

The effort of these Marines reaches service members in many places in various forms, and it would not be possible without the proper coordination with their fellow squadrons in MAG-40.

"There is no doubt that without MALS-40, this place would be a lot different than it is, with the logistics and eye-level expertise they provide," said Lt. Col. David Forrest, the Marine Attack Squadron 231 commanding officer.

In a few months, MALS-40 will depart Afghanistan and leaving



Marines take cover, acquire targets

A Marine fire team with Bravo Co., 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, takes cover after receiving simulated enemy contact during a training exercise at Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, Jan. 2. Photo by Lance Cpl. James W. Clark

